

Olivia Burrows has always felt comfortable leading younger children. As an older sibling and now in the role of student teacher, she says, kids have been drawn to what she has to say.

For her final semester as a Pointer, Burrows had the chance to apply her academic experiences in 7th Grade Social Studies classes at DC Everest Middle School in Weston, Wis.

When she transferred to UW-Stevens Point from another college in the Universities of Wisconsin system, she was ready to seize opportunities to grow her passion for teaching.

Her **History and Social Studies Education** major has provided her with academic support and the encouragement and connections of faculty. Burrows said Professor Lee Willis and retired history professor Nancy Lopatin-Lummis always conveyed a genuine interest in her journey.

Willis was compassionate and interested in her growth. He helped guide her through the History Methods course and they regularly talked about the changes and challenges facing teachers.

“They helped mold me into who I am today,” Burrows said.

In a recent unit with her middle schoolers on Ancient Greece, Burrows said the students had to describe ancient myths in the vernacular of the modern teen. The telling of ancient Greek fables with Tik Tok-popular slang kept the entire class engaged and amused for the lesson. For another lesson unit, students were asked to develop and create a new European city they could name.

“I’m adaptive to the ideas of what they are into and how to engage with the students. I’m trying to keep it fun and the learning opportunities as interactive as possible,” she said.

When she’s not teaching or studying, Burrows spends time coaching for the JV Girls Basketball program at DC Everest. Her advice to prospective teaching majors is to take an array of courses to position yourself with the required knowledge and skills to teach across multiple disciplines.

“You get as much as you put into it. UWSP has an endless number of opportunities!”

